

15 September 1957

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I have looked into the circumstances connected with your application for employment with this Agency. Apparently it was established in pre-employment physical examination that you have very poor vision, limited for all practicable purposes to the right eye. In the opinion of our medical personnel, the burden which your employment in a clerical capacity would place on your good eye would cause its eventual impairment.

You must appreciate that this is a career service and that insofar as is humanly possible we select people for long term employment who are not only mentally but physically qualified for all types of service. In this respect our policies are very much like that of the Armed Services.

You must understand also that since your defective vision precludes your consideration for positions requiring constant use of your eyes, your opportunities with us would be extremely limited. In all honesty, therefore, we cannot hold out to you the possibility of a career in this service. We are only taking people whom we can develop and this would require of you a great deal of additional study and probably several years more of special schooling. Under the circumstances, therefore, I have no alternative but to place an absolute limit on the type of work for which you could be considered regardless of your college education, much as I regret doing this in the case of a man who obviously has a special interest and desire to serve us.

Sincerely,

*Walter B. Smith*

Walter B. Smith

WBS/c

Orig--addressee

2 cc--signer(reading)

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1 cc--Personnel - my basic

1 cc--Medical Office